(b) to (e) In view of dis-continuation of the scheme the question does not arise.

Recommendation of Standing Committee on NPK Ratio

8313. SHRI NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring the consumption pattern of NKP fertilizers to the ideal ratio of 4:2:1;

(b) if so, the reasons for deterioration in the ratio since the decontrol of P&K in 1992; and

(c) the action Government propose to take in this Kharif season to support P&K consumption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has been making continous efforts to achieve the ideal 4:2:1 NPK ratio.

(b) NPK ratio widened after decontrol of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilisers in 1992, as their consumption declined due to increase in their prices.

(c) In order to support P & K consumption in Kharif season also, Government have taken following measures to narrow down the NPK ratio:—

(i) The scheme for Concessions on the sale of Phosphatic and Potassic Fertilizers initiated after decontrol of these fertilisers during 1992-93 is continued since then.

(ii) A scheme on Balanced and Integrated use of Fertilisers has been taken up during the 8th Plan under which integrated use of nutrients through the use of organic manure, bio-fertilisers and micro-nutrients is promoted alongwith the use of chemical nutrients.

(iii) National Project on Development of Fertiliser Use in Low Consumption and Rainfed Areas has been taken up during 1994-95, under which green manure as well as integrated nutrient system is promoted.

(iv) Under the National Project on Development and Use of Bio-fertilisers, the production, distribution and use of bio-fertilisers is promoted.

(v) States are advised to organise training programme for education of farmers about balanced fertiliser use.

Schemes to gve Incentives flod Cash Crop

8314. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch any schme in the State of Punjab to give more incentives and assistance for cash crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to give benefits to the farmers of the Punjab State during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (d) The on-going Centrally Sponsored Schemes like Intensive Cotton Development Programme and Oilseed Production Programme are implemented to benefit the farmers of Punjab during VIIIth Five Year Plan. In addition, it has also been proposed to

launch a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme on sugarcane in Punjab State. Under this scheme, assistance is proposed to be provided on training to the farmers, farm workers including women on newly developed production technology, demonstration, quality seed production, distribution of improved implements, etc.

Industries in Aquaculture

8315. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industries engaged in aquaculture in our country at present; and

(b) the details of the aquaculture industries indicating names and locations and their annual business transaction for the year 1993-94 and 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) As per information furnished by the Secretariat for Industrial Approvals in the Ministry of Industry between August 1991 and April 1995, permission was granted to 70 companies for setting up 100 per cent Export Oriented Units for aquaculture.

(b) Names and location of these units are given in the Annexure. (*See* appendix 173, Annexure No. 190). Details of annual business transactions of these companies are not maintained by the Government.

Benefits to Aquaculture Industry

8316. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the benefits being provided to aquaculture induustry in the liberalised industrial policy; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The major benefits provided to aquaculture in the liberalised industrial policy include:

(i) Exemption of customs duty and central excise duty on prawn feed, fish meal, pre-mixes and other ingredients used in feed formulations.

(ii) Reduction of customs duty from 65 per cent to 15 per cent for import of fish vaccine and certain chemicals used in aquaculture and prawn processing (in 1995-96 budget).

(iii) Liberalisation of terms for foreign equity participation and for engaging overseas consultants and payment of fees in foreign exchange.

(iv) Waiving of income tax in the case of small freshwater fish farmers for a net water area of 7.5 acre per farmer, fatching an annual income of Rs. 4000 per acre (in 1993-94 and 1994-95 assessment years).

Asistance to rural youth for acquaculture

8317. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the details of assistance being provided by the Central Government to the rural educated youth for aquaculture in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): Assistance is being provided by the Central Government under ongoing schemes of freshwater and brackishwater aquaculture development to farmers including rural youth for aquaculture activities.

In freshwater aquaculture assistance is provided for construction of new ponds, renovation of ponds and tanks, inputs,